

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated June 18, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are currently pending.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-3 and 6-8 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

Rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Examiner has noted that claims 1 and 6-8 lack sufficient antecedent basis for various features in these claims (See Office Action, page 2). Applicant has reviewed and, where appropriate, amended claims 1 and 6-8 as suggested by the Examiner to correct the antecedent basis of various features in these claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1-3 and 6-8 in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that the proposed response does not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Furthermore, as noted above, the Examiner has acknowledged that claims 1-3 and 6-8 would be allowable if Applicant traversed the rejection under 35

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U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicant to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance. Finally, Applicant submits that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

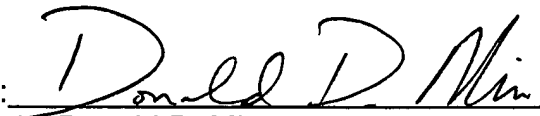
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-3 and 6-8 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of claims 1-3 and 6-8.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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